LOOK.
I'M BACK TO BEING A KID AGAIN! IT'S IGARASHI THE 8 YEAR-OLD.
CHIYO, I THINK YOU

LOOK LIKE A FULL-GROWN ADULT.

HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF.

I DIDN'T KNOW

THAT HE HAD IT IN HIM TO SAY THINGS LIKE THAT.

HUH?

こいいぬ。

第8話　思い違い

IGA-
RASHI!

OH

CONSIDER WHERE MY ATTENTION IS.
YOU CAN'T JUST SNEAK UP ON SOME-ONE LIKE THAT.
DON'T PUSH YOUR-SELF TOO HARD, OKAY?
YOU'RE STILL...
IT'S FINE... IT'S ALREADY HEALED.

IGA-
RASHI!!
AN
OPENING!
IT HAS
TO BE
HEALED...
RIGHT?

HEY, IGA-CHAN.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO JOIN THE BASKETBALL TEAM?
YEAH I HAVE A PART-TIME JOB, SO I CAN'T FIND THE TIME...

BUT IN REALITY YOU ACTUALLY DO WANT TO, RIGHT?
IT'S TWICE A WEEK. YOU CAN STILL DO IT WITH A PART-TIME JOB AND I'LL EVEN JOIN WITH YOU.
THIS IS KOUJI KITAMOTO, A FRIEND IN THE SAME SPORTS DEPARTMENT AS ME.
THIS IS MINAKI SHISHIJIMA.
PLAYING BASKETBALL IS A BIT OF A STRETCH FOR YOU, RIGHT NOW.
DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP, KOUJI. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GROW ANY TALLER ANYTIME SOON.
OH REALLY ...
I DESPISE TALL PEOPLE.
THE WORLD IS BETTER OFF WITH THEM DEAD.
I BECAME FRIENDS WITH THEM THIS PAST SPRING.

TO BE HONEST I WAS STILL GOOD AT BASKETBALL WHEN I WAS YOUR HEIGHT.

IGA-CHAN... DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW IT FEELS? HOW IT FEELS BEING SEEN BY GIRLS WHILE WALKING NEXT TO YOU?
...
MY CONDOLENCES.
184 cm.
162 cm
178cm

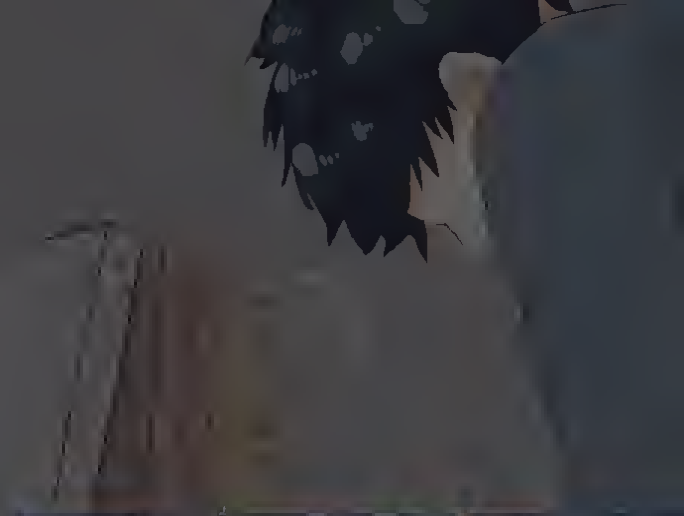
CHIYO -CHAN...

AH
SHE'S ACTUALLY PRETTY SHORT, ISN'T SHE?
IF I WERE KITAMOTO, CHIYO AND I WOULD BE THE SAME HEIGHT. A PERFECT BALANCE.

HUH?
ABOUT YESTER-DAY...
GOTTA GO, BYE!

WHAT?
WAIT
SOR RY ...

WHAT'D I DO THIS TIME?



...

YO.
RYOUHEI!

TAKAKURA RYOUHEI, A FRESHMAN IN INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

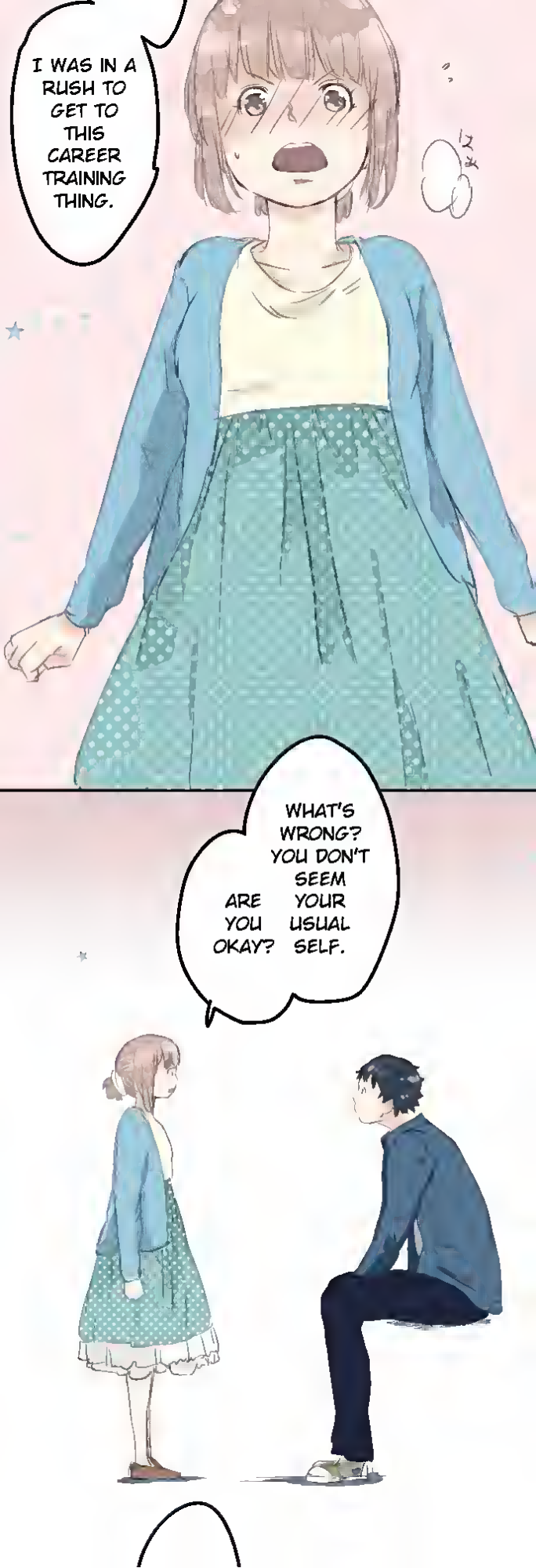
YOU NEVER LEARN, DO YOU?

EH?
L...
LEARN WHAT?
WHEN I FIRST MET RYOUHEI,
HE SEEMED LIKE A COOL GUY, SO I BECAME FRIENDS WITH HIM.
BECAUSE YOU'RE AN IDIOT.

I THINK YOU NEED TO STOP THINKING SO MUCH.

SEEYA.
...
I OVER-THOUGHT IT.
AND MY MIND BECAME WEAK I GUESS.

YEAH...
BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE HER AGAIN SO BADLY, I TRIED TALKING TO HER RIGHT HERE AND NOW.
FOR SOME REASON, I DIDN'T ANTICIPATE THE REACTION SHE WOULD HAVE.
"I WANT TO BE FRIENDS AGAIN, JUST LIKE HOW WE USED TO BE."
DIDN'T I SAY THAT?
IGA-RASHI!
SORRY ABOUT BEFORE ...


I WAS IN A RUSH TO GET TO THIS CAREER TRAINING THING.
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU DON'T SEEM YOUR USUAL SELF.
ARE YOU OKAY?

SO?
WHAT WAS IT THAT YOU WANTED TO SAY BEFORE?
...
W-
WHAT?
DON'T OGLE AT ME LIKE THAT! IT MAKES ME FEEL UNCOM-FORTABLE.
CHIYO
YOU'RE KINDA CUTE.

HAH!?

YOU LOOK LIKE A TOMATO WITH YOUR FACE ALL RED LIKE THAT.
トマ

I'M DONE.
I CAN'T DO THIS ANY-MORE.

S-SORRY!
I WAS LYING!
IT WAS A JOKE!
THERE'S NO NEED TO KEEP GOING.
I HATE YOU.
どうせ丸顔だ。
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, SO PLEASE...
FORGIVE ME!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO OFFEND YOU.
THAT WAS STUPID OF ME JUST NOW.
...
AHH GEEZ ...
WHY DO I ALWAYS ?
I NEED TO BE MORE CONSID-ERATE.
ガシガシ
FUFUFU

I LIED.
STUPID.
I DON'T REALLY HATE YOU.
WE'RE CHILD-

FRIENDS, COME ON.
BYE.
...
THIS IS BAD.
I MAY HAVE JUST FALLEN FOR HER.

to be continued...